

The Importance of Studying the Original Languages of the Bible

To pastors, ministers, preachers, and everyone who is in the Body of Christ:

On behalf of the saints and those who attend church: This letter is being sent to each and every one of you because there are some people who are relying solely on translations of the Bible to get by in life's journey. This is very unfortunate because these same people often hold in high regard these translations, including the New International Version and the King James Version, to name at least two of these translations. What the saints and everyone who attends church needs to realize that these translations are English renditions of the Holy Scriptures. The truth is that the Bible was not originally written in English! Instead, the Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek. I can attest to this fact because I am currently studying the original languages of the Bible as I speak.

The truth is that most churches advise people to go to Christian or theological schools to learn about the Bible in the original languages. However, it is not solely up to Christian or theological schools to teach the Holy Scriptures in the original languages. The church also has a responsibility to teach the saints and those who attend church about the importance of knowing and studying Hebrew and Greek, the languages of the Bible. The translations should not be held in regard above the original languages. I am not speaking on behalf of the Messianic or Greek Orthodox Churches because these churches acknowledge, preach, and teach from the original languages. Rather, I am addressing the churches, especially the Protestant Churches, who use the translations of the Bible to preach and teach about Scripture. What these churches are committing, whether deliberately or unintentionally, is the sin of omission. This sin of omission is failing to acknowledge and use the original Hebrew and Greek languages in addition to the translation used for rendering the sermon or lesson. The world can care less about this because these matters are not important to them. The only way to preserve the integrity of the church is to acknowledge the original languages of the Bible and teach the saints and those who attend the church these languages.

Many saints are using the *Strong's Concordance* to find out the meanings of Biblical scripture in Hebrew and Greek. While this is a great place to start if you are young in the faith, this source is insufficient for those who want to read, learn, and speak Hebrew and Greek. The reason for this is because the *Strong's Concordance* only contains the Hebrew and Greek *roots* of the words. If you want to learn and speak the words as they are in the Hebrew and Greek, it is best to use these sources: an interlinear Greek-English New Testament, an interlinear Hebrew-English Old Testament, the Septuagint (Greek Old Testament), Hebrew and Greek language books, audio CDs, DVDs, etc. If you are still encountering difficulties from these sources, then it is best to consult with native speakers of Hebrew and Greek and attend a Messianic Church or Greek Orthodox Church.

God wanted the Bible to be put in the hands of the people. He also wanted us to learn the original languages of the Bible. In Luke 1:37, it states, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." (KJV) In the Greek text, this reads: οτι ουκ αδυνατησει παρα τω θεω παν ρημα (Stephanas Textus Receptus, 1550). This is something that the people sitting in the pews should know. However, the church isn't teaching the lay people this, and this is one of the many scriptures that need to be taught. The word "impossible" should not be a part of the Christian vocabulary. To say that the saints and those who are in the pews on Sunday morning cannot learn the original languages would be to say that children cannot learn how to read and write. I know that the latter is false. The Holy Scriptures in the Hebrew and Greek are not just for the clergy; they are also for the saints and attendants of churches as well.

There is a scripture in James 2:10 that reads: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (KJV) In other words, if the church is performing the other necessary duties but neglect to mention the significance of the original languages, then the church is guilty because this is something that should be mentioned in front of the congregation.

This letter is a revelation from God. This letter is not the basis for a theological debate, for the truth is not subject to opinion. Therefore, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, that the clergy, saints, and those who attend church open their minds and hearts to this often, neglected truth that the Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.